

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fire-resistant composite yarn comprising:

- flame-retarded fibers in a quantity greater than 40% with respect to the total weight of the yarn, [[the]] said fibers being formed on the basis of a crystalline or semi-crystalline polymeric material;
- hydrophilic fibers in a quantity of between 10% and 45% with respect to the weight of flame-retarded fibers, [[the]] said hydrophilic fibers being formed by a non-fusible material;
- thermostable fibers in a quantity of between 4% and 50% with respect to the total weight of the yarn, [[the]] said thermostable fibers being formed by a non-flammable material, and wherein said yarn comprises a core yarn formed with the thermostable fibers, and, associated around said core yarn, a coating formed from a mixture of the flame-retarded fibers and hydrophilic fibers.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the polymeric material forming the basis of the flame-retardant fibers is ~~chosen~~ selected from

the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of polyesters, polypropylenes and polyvinyl alcohols.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flame-retarded fibers also comprise a flame-retarded polymeric material.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flame-retarded fibers are treated with a flame-retardant agent.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrophilic fibers are produced from a natural or artificial cellulosic material such as cotton, viscose, or rayon or based on wool.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrophilic fibers are treated so as to be at least partially flame retarded.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the thermostable fibers are produced from a polymeric material ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of para-aramids, meta-aramids, polybenzimidazole-imides, polybenzoxazoles, polyacrylates,

polyphenols, polyamide-imides and poly-p-phenylenediamine-terephthalamides (PPTA or M5).

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fibers forming the yarn are mixed intimately.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein said yarn comprises between 4% and 20% by weight thermostable fibers.

10. (canceled)

11.. (currently amended) [[A]] The yarn according to Claim [[10]] 1, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein said yarn comprises between 20% and 50% by weight thermostable fibers.

12. (currently amended) A textile intended for producing protective clothing, characterised in that [[it]] said textile comprises at least one woven or knitted textile layer formed with yarns according to Claim 1.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The textile according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the textile layer is dyed or printed.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The textile according to
Claim 12, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein said textile
comprises, associated with the textile layer, a non-flammable
impermeable/breathable layer.